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UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2686
(BUR/72/004)

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ENGLISH ONLY

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

Establishment of a Forest Research Institute, Yezin (Supplementary Assistance) (BUR/72/004)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	May 1980
Starting date of project activities:	November 1978 (including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	November 1982
To be executed by:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Forest Department (Ministry of Agriculture and Forest)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$320 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The forests of Burma, which cover about 149,900 square miles or 57 per cent of the total land area, represent a valuable natural resource. Forest and forest industry development, however, are being hampered by lack of research. Burma, unlike neighbouring countries, lacks a forest research facility even though it has an effective Forest Department.

2. Having recognized the urgent need for forest research, the Government requested assistance from UNDP for the establishment of a Forest Research Institute. The project was approved in July 1974 with a planned duration of four years 1/; implementation of the project was delayed. It was later decided to subcontract the expert services, and

1/ DP/PROJECTS/393.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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a project revision including the subcontract component was approved in August 1977[2/].

3. Supplementary assistance has now been approved to compensate for inflationary rises in the cost of the equipment originally provided for and to enable the purchase of additional essential equipment.

II. Objectives and Activities

4. The long term objective of the project remains to provide technical information on a variety of forestry aspects.

5. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) develop a Forest Research Institute from the existing research division of the Forest Department; (b) establish and carry out an applied research programme; and (c) provide training in various fields of research.

III. Inputs

6. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, the additional items of equipment required for the project, including wood working machinery and library and laboratory equipment.

IV. Financial Data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
Personnel	69,900	-	69,900
Sub	659,900	-	659,900
Training	50,500	-	50,500
Equipment	477,400	320,000	797,400
Miscellaneous	57,600	-	57,600
	1,315,300	320,000	1,635,287

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $1,283,820 in kind.

2/ DP/PROJECTS/1613.

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